

**Central Falls School District Board of Trustees**  
**Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2015**  
**Ella Risk Conference Room, Lower Level**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call- Ms. Cano Morales called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM. Roll call was taken. Ana-Cecilia Rosado arrived at 5:41PM. Then all were present.
- II. Pledge- Mr. LaPlante led the pledge.
- III. Approval of the meeting minutes of February 10, 2015 - A motion to approve the minutes of February 10 was made by Ms. Gonzalez, seconded by Ms. Grace. Motion carried. (6,0) Ms. Rosado arrived just after this vote was taken.
- IV. A call for Executive Session under General Laws 42-46-5(a)(1), was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Martinez, that this body convene in executive session to discuss the job performance of certain employees. These persons have been notified in writing that the public body intends to convene in executive session to discuss his or her job performance and he/she declined to have this discussion take place in open session. A roll call was taken. All approved. (7,0)  
A motion to come out of executive session and seal the minutes was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Ms. Martinez. A roll call vote was taken. All approved. Ms. Morales announced the return to open session. A motion to uphold the recommendation of the Superintendent made in executive session was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. A roll call vote was taken. All approved. (7,0)
- V. Approval of personnel actions including any new appointments, rescissions, resignations, recalls, and retirement- A motion to approve the appointments of Kathy Kiley and Terri Rose as teacher assistants was made by Ms. Grace, seconded by Mr. Figueroa. Motion carried. (7,0)
- VI. Approval of bills – Grants and General Budget – A motion to approve the bills was made by Dr. Pitt, seconded by Ms. Rosado. Ms. Grace stated that she reviewed the bills and everything was in order. Motion carried. (7,0)
- VII. Resolution to support RI Pre-Kindergarten - The resolution was read for the record: *Be it resolved that the Central Falls School Board of Trustees hereby acknowledges its full support of the Rhode Island Pre-Kindergarten Program. It is our intention to support work already taking place and the expansion of the program so even more of our children may benefit from this exceptional opportunity.* A motion to

- move the resolution and approve was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. All approved and signed the resolution. (7,0)
- VIII. High School Presentation of changes to the PBGR system –Ms. Priess and Ms. Viveros presented proposed changes to the Proficiency Based Graduation Requirements to the Trustees explaining how the changes would better support student choice while ensuring greater communication among and between faculty, students, and families. Moderate discussion led to an understanding that our students must be challenged to write strong essays not a single simple paragraph at the end of the year; students should have multiple opportunities for public speaking to hone their presentations skills, and should be required to seek references and recommendation letters on their own as they learn to accept personal responsibility for meeting the PBGR criteria. Preparation for life should encompass a wide variety of experiences.
- IX. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
- X. Board Discussion of the superintendent position – Chairperson Morales discussed the fact that in consultation with RIDE, sponsoring a search for a new superintendent was not necessary. The Trustees should discuss the qualities they seek in an individual and the recruit on their own.
- XI. Superintendent Comment - Dr. Gallo turned to Mr. La Plante and asked him to review his recent experiences from the Arizona and California conferences. Mr. La Plante explained that he and a team from Rhode Island College presented our work in teacher preparation in Arizona. They conference participants from across the country marveled at the work being accomplished through the Innovation Lab. Then Mr. La Plante spoke about the Breaking Ranks conference in San Diego where he along with Ms. Withdraw, science teacher, Flor Ramos, a parent volunteer at the high school, and Sabastian Zuletta, high school senior, presented the high school transformation story as a team to two hundred conference goers. There was happy excitement as Mr. La Plante explained the session's development and the participants' reception. Dr. Gallo announced that Stephanie Racine and her Calcutt NEED students were invited to an award ceremony at the Convention Center at March 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. The district will be providing the bus. Everyone is excited to learn the outcome of the energy video challenge. Dr. Gallo was asked to discuss the recent maintenance issues that had surfaced in our schools. Ella Risk suffered a burst pipe that caused serious water damage in the financial offices area and her office; the several burst pipes and heating issues at veterans, etc. Some time was spent discussing the snow plowing contracts and how difficult the snow

removal is when the neighbors' cars remain the parking lots well after a parking ban. No one wants to have these cars towed; however, steps must be taken to ensure the proper clearing and salting/sanding of the land to best support safety. Questions were raised about the city support for the facility maintenance. Dr. Gallo noted that all the money for this type of work has been coming from within the general budget. Dr. Gallo noted for the record that RIDE would be opening discussions with the City to provide for the maintenance of the school buildings.

- XII. Board Comment – Chairperson Morales noted that she would be absent from the last meeting in March. Since everyone else expects to attend there was no need to change the date of the meeting.
- XIII. Next Scheduled Meeting: March 10, 2015 at **5:30PM** at the Ell Risk School. Topic: Curriculum review
- XIV. Adjournment- A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Rosado, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. The meeting adjourned at 7:40PM